

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A beverage can (1) having an exposed protective cover secured over a can lid area of the can, wherein the cover (3) is made of a non-laminated vermicular embossed aluminum foil and has a thickness in the range of approximately nine micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers.

2-3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the depth of embossing of the aluminum foil is in the range from approximately sixty micrometers to approximately one hundred micrometers.

5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) is joined to the beverage can (1) with adhesive.

7. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to the central area of the can lid (1a).

8. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to an upper can edge (1c).

9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a substantially rotationally symmetrical shape.

11. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a polygonal shape.

12. (previously presented): The beverage can according to 11, wherein the protective cover (3) has several points progressing downward along the can (1).

13. (previously presented): The beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) conforms to a contour of the can lid (1a) and of an upper can edge (1c).

14-22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented): A protective cover blank and a beverage can combination, the beverage can having a non-planar lid area and the blank being conformable to the lid area in a ductile manner and being made of non-laminated vermicular embossed aluminum foil, wherein the aluminum foil has a thickness in the range from approximately 9 micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers, and wherein the depth of embossing is in the range from approximately 60 micrometers to approximately 100 micrometers.

24-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented): The combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a substantially circular shape.

27. (previously presented): The combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a polygonal shape.

28-33. (canceled).

34. (previously presented): The combination according to claim 26, wherein the blank has a pull-off tab (23).

35. (currently amended): The combination according to claim ~~28~~ 23, wherein the blank includes, on one side, coating is a zonal coating applied to only a portion of the one side of the blank.

36-37. (canceled).

38. (currently amended): The combination according to claim ~~29~~ 35, wherein zonal coating is applied to the one side in a circular shaped pattern.

39-42. (canceled).